

LOS VAQUEROS RESERVOIR ENLARGEMENT

Description

Los Vaqueros Reservoir (100 TAF) is an offstream storage facility located in Contra Costa County, on the eastern slope of the Coast Range, about 11 miles south of Antioch and 7 miles northwest of the Clifton Court Forebay. The storage capacity could be increased up to 1,065 TAF by replacing the main dam and adding four saddle dams. An expanded Los Vaqueros might be interconnected with the Mokelumne, Hetch Hetchy, and/or South Bay Aqueducts to store and distribute high quality water from a variety of sources and replace existing Delta diversions.

Potential Benefits

- Provide storage capacity to facilitate a Bay Area regional blending program to improve water quality for municipal and industrial purposes throughout the region.
- Improved flexibility for managing Delta fisheries and water quality problems.
- Emergency storage for drinking water supplies.
- Annual dry period water supply of 40-50 TAF for small (400TAF) reservoir and 120-150 TAF for large (1,065 TAF) reservoir.

Potential Impacts

- Inundation of up to 3,340 acres of grasslands, woodlands, riparian and terrestrial wildlife habitat, including existing Los Vaqueros Reservoir mitigation land.
- Impacts to State or federal listed and candidate wildlife species and species of special concern.
- Impact to significant prehistoric/historic sites and need to relocate recreational facilities.
- Potential instream flow issues if Mokelumne and/or Hetch Hetchy Aqueducts are used to replace existing Delta diversions.

Estimated Cost

New Size:	400 TAF ¹	1,065 TAF ²
Total Capital Cost:	\$710,000,000	\$2,500,000,000
Total Annual Cost:	\$53,000,000	\$180,000,000

Additional costs would be required for conveyance improvements and interconnections.

Notes:

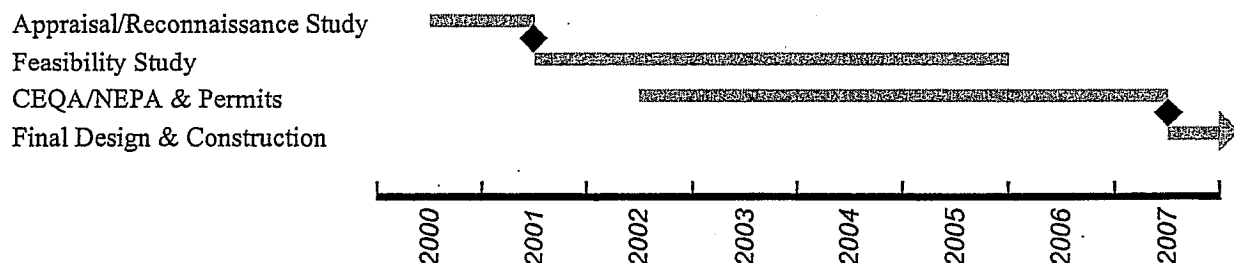
¹Rough estimate; includes 500 cfs conveyance from Delta.

²About 55% of this cost estimate is for a new 5,000 cfs conveyance facility from the Delta.

Implementation Issues

Regional project would require cooperative agreement among a number of Bay Area agencies. Enlargement of the reservoir would require identifying and acquiring suitable mitigation areas to replace and significantly augment the existing mitigation lands. Local issues regarding recreational use of Los Vaqueros must be satisfactorily resolved prior to expansion.

Implementation Timeline



Recommendations

Conduct joint DWR/USBR/local partnership evaluations to lead to a decision on implementation of new near Delta storage, with primary focus on Los Vaqueros Reservoir Enlargement, to find a solution to Bay Area blending for water quality and water supply reliability. Immediately initiate joint DWR/USBR/local partnership reconnaissance study as a component of a Bay Area regional blending study.